IT HAPPENED IN THE WINTER, JUST BEFORE THE HIGH-SCHOOL PRELIMINARY TEST
HEHEHE, I WANT TO LOOK AROUND.
HOP!
CLANK
THE EXAM IS GOING TO BEGIN SOON.
LOOK! YOU CAN SEE THE SCHOOL THROUGH THIS FENCE.
JEEZ, THAT AYANA. SHE ALWAYS DOES WEIRD THINGS WHEN SHE'S STRESSED.
PLEASE, PLEASE,
LET ME PASS THE TEST AND GET INTO THIS HIGH SCHOOL
AH!
I FOUND A LITTLE WHITE FLOWER UNDERNEATH THE SNOW
Snow Drop
AWWW, THAT'S SO CUTE! THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM HERE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY CAN STILL GROW BEAUTIFULLY UNDERNEATH ALL THIS SNOW
DOK!
MIZUKI-SAN! PLEASE COME INSIDE.
IT'S SNOWING OUT THERE.
JUST A LITTLE MORE...
HEY, AYANA, WHERE'RE YOU GOING?

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Snow Drop
LES MILLE FLEURS – PREQUEL
This is a story about Shin's (Chika's brother) dream, passion, and love.
Doko Demo Doa
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EVERYTHING STARTED ON THAT DAY.
WOW!
THE SAKURA PETALS ARE SO PRETTY.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? THE LAST TIME WE CAME HERE, THAT EMBARRASSING THING HAPPENED TO US
PLUS, LOOK! THIS BUILDING IS HUGE!
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS PLACE.
CLANK
AH!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SURELY IT'S A GOOD THING THAT WE GOT ACCEPTED HERE?

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YE, YES, WE'RE FINE.
AR... ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
AYANA!
WAAA!
SORRY ABOUT THAT!
WAAA, WAAAAAA!
RUSH
SHE JUST MADE ME REMEMBER SOMETHING I'D RATHER FORGET.
THAT WAS PROBABLY THE MOST EMBARRASSING EXPERIENCE I'VE EVER HAD.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WAS PAINTING OUTSIDE, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SNOWING
HE MUST BE FROM THE 12TH GRADE. BUT HE WAS SO COOL.
I WONDER IF HE WAS PAINTING THOSE LITTLE FLOWERS...
HUH?
WAIT A SEC!
THIS ISN'T OUR CLASS LET'S GO BACK.
OOPS, I THINK WE'RE LOST.

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THIS ROOM MUST BE FOR THE ART CLUB COMMITTEE. AWESOME!
IT'S SO PRETTY! THE ARTIST IS SO TALENTED.
WOW, AN OIL PAINTING
HEY, AYANA.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE INTO ART.
JEEZ, AYANA, DO YOU LIKE IT?
THESE...
ARE THE FLOWERS I SAW THAT DAY.

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SHIN MIZUKI?
HE LOOKS SCARY.
AND THIS PERSON IS SHIN MIZUKI.
YOU MIGHT HAVE HEARD OF HIM, SINCE HE'S PRETTY WELL KNOWN AND OFTEN WINS COMPETITIONS.
I'M THE CLUB'S PRESIDENT, TAKUDA, AND THIS IS THE VICE-PRESIDENT, MITSUE-SAN.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO LOOK AROUND.
DON'T BE SHY.
AH, I'M AYANA TOGAWA FROM CLASS A.
AND WHO ARE YOU?
They ran away.
RIGHT, GUYS?
UMMM, ACTUALLY, WE WERE JUST TRYING TO FIND OUR NEXT CLASS. WE CAME INTO THIS ROOM BY ACCIDENT.
AH.
IN THAT CASE,
I'LL BE LEAVING TOO.
Doko-Demo-Doa
Mizuki Sawahara

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WHAT?! YOU MADE HIS PAINTING FALL DOWN?!
MIZUKI-SENPAI'S PAINTING! NO WAY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. ON YOUR FIRST DAY AT THIS SCHOOL, YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING LIKE THIS. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? DID YOU APOLOGIZE?
OF COURSE I DID, BUT...
APOLOGIZING DOESN'T CHANGE A THING!
I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE ENOUGH EVEN IF THEY KILLED ME...

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JUST FORGET IT. IT CAN'T BE HELPED, CAN IT?
I'LL FIX IT.
THAT PAINTING WAS SUPPOSED TO GO IN A NATIONAL ART EXHIBITION!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? THE PAINTING WAS ALMOST COMPLETE!
I'M SORRY, UMMM.
HOW CAN BE CALM IN THIS SITUATION!
MITSUE-SAN, PLEASE CALM DOWN.
THAT'S TRUE. I HEARD THAT FOR ARTISTS, THEIR PAINTINGS ARE LIKE THEIR CHILDREN.
SHE'S RIGHT. I REMEMBER SENSEI TELLING US ABOUT IT.
I'VE DONE SOMETHING IRREVERSIBLE AND UNFORGIVABLE.
I CAN'T SHOW MY FACE IN THAT ROOM EVER AGAIN!
I'D RATHER DIE.

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I HEARD HE'S BEEN OFFERED A PLACE ALREADY BY THAT PRESTIGIOUS ART INSTITUTE.
HE OFTEN GETS AWARDS, LIKE "THE MOST TALENTED HIGH-SCHOOL ARTIST",
ALSO, RUMOR HAS IT THAT THIS SCHOOL'S ART CLUB IS PRETTY FAMOUS.
ESPECIALLY THE 12TH GRADER, SHIN MIZUKI-SAN.
ENOUGH. YOU'RE MAKING ME FEEL WORSE.
I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE AGAIN. PROPERLY, THIS TIME.
HE MUST'VE SPENT AGES ON THAT PAINTING.
OF COURSE HE WON'T FORGIVE ME.
AND HE'S SO SCARY...
AYANA,
AREN'T YOU COMING WITH US?
UMMM.

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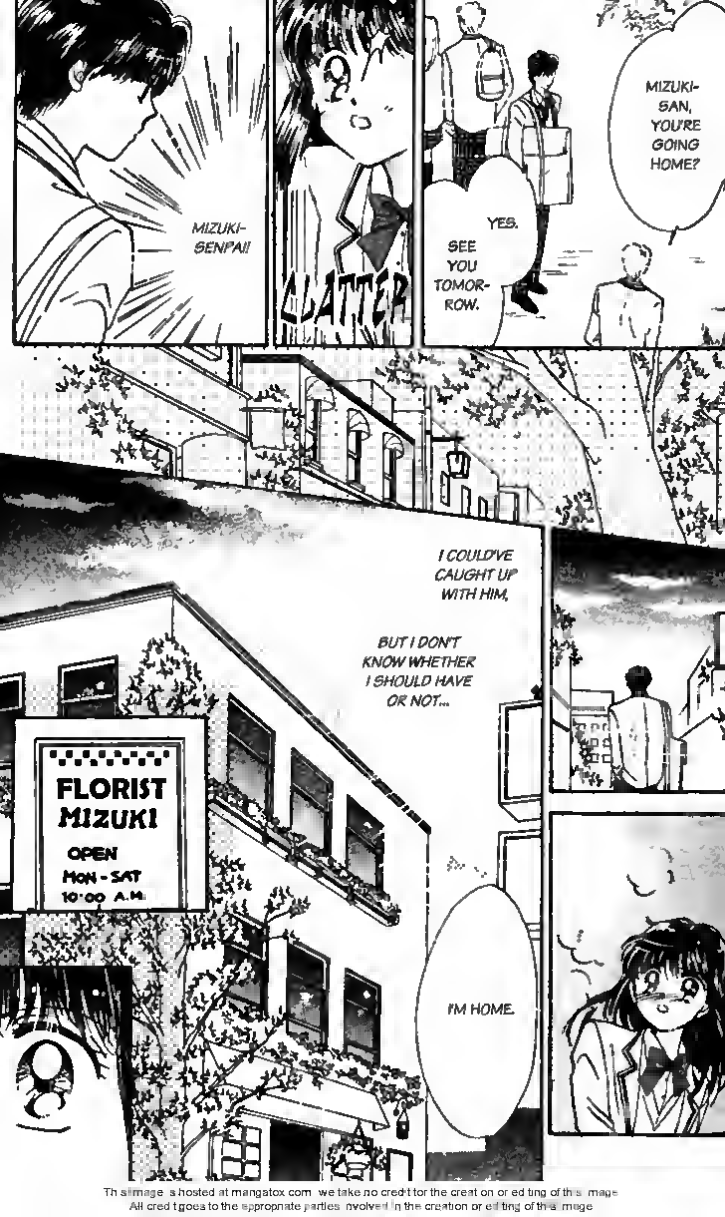

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I TOLD YOU IT WAS FINE, DIDN'T I?
CALM DOWN!
BUT...!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
I'M SO SORRY...
BUT, BUT...
I RUINED THE PAINTING THAT TOOK ALL YOUR TIME AND ENERGY TO CREATE.
SO IT WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH EVEN IF I APOLOGIZE A THOUSAND TIMES!
SORRY!!
I'M SOOOO...
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WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, FATHER?
WH...
AWWW, SHIN,
DON'T BE SO COLD, AT LEAST SMILE A LITTLE...
YOU TOO, CHIKA!
WHAT WRONG WITH THAT?
IT'S NOT UNUSUAL, SO WHY ARE YOU SURPRISED?
HE HELPS HIS FATHER... IN THE STORE?
PLEASE FORGIVE HIS RUDE-NESS.
BUT DON'T TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY. WHEN HE HELPS ME IN THE STORE, HE HAS THE SAME SCARY EXPRES-SION ON.
EH?!
ALL MY CUS-TOMERS ARE AFRAID OF HIM.
IS HE EMBAR-RASSED?
WHAT? HIS EXPRESSION HAS CHANGED A LITTLE.

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NII-CHAN.
YOU HAVE A PAINTING LESSON TODAY, RIGHT? IF YOU DON'T HURRY, YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
A PAINTING LESSON?
IT'S PREPARATION TO ENTER THE ART INSTITUTE.
DID YOU KNOW THAT I WAS GOING TO THE ART INSTITUTE?
I WILL TAKE THE PRELIMINARY TEST SOON,
JUST LIKE THE ONE YOU TOOK A WHILE AGO.
I DID HEAR ABOUT THE INSTITUTE.
EVEN THOUGH HE'S SO TALENTED, HE HAD TO TAKE A PREPARATION CLASS AFTER ALL.
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY BUSY, THEN.
THAT'S TRUE. I DON'T WANT TO DISTRACT HIM BY MAKING HIM WATCH THE STORE IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS PREPARATION.
MAYBE I SHOULD HIRE SOMEONE TO WORK PART TIME...
I TOLD YOU MILLION TIMES THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY EXTRA MONEY TO PAY SOMEONE!

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OH, NO! I'M LATE ALREADY!
BYE BYE!
ARE YOU GOING TO WORK AGAIN TODAY?
AYANA!
YES!
WHO KNOWS?
SHE MUST REALLY ENJOY THAT JOB OF HERS.
SHE'S BEEN SO ENERGETIC LATELY.
THAT DAY, SHE OFFERED TO HELP US OUT. BUT SHE'LL JUST END UP CAUSING TROUBLE.
OUCH!
EH? WHAT DID YOU SAY?
JEEZ.

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NOW AAAAAAAT!
WORKING AT THE MIZUKI FLORIST STORE.
THE ONE YOU'RE HOLDING IS THE ANGELICI
IS MUCH TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT!
AND THOSE ARE ROSES, NOT TULIPS!!
I'M SORRY, BUT THE TULIPS ALONE HAVE TEN DIFFERENT VARIETIES...
ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT HELPING US?
AYANA, YOUR MEMORY IS TERRIBLE.
JEEZ, SHE'S SO SCARY!
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP!
IF YOU HAVE TIME TO FLATTER ME, USE IT TO MEMORIZE THESE FLOWER'S NAMES INSTEAD.
BUT YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT FLOWERS
I'M IMPRESSED, CHIKA-CHAN. YOU'RE ONLY IN THE 5TH GRADE.

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WOW.
THESE ARE SO BEAUTIFUL, AND THEY SMELL SO GOOD!
THESE ROSES WERE DELIVERED THIS MORNING.
WILL YOU HELP ME WATER THEM?
OKAY.
AYANA, PLEASE COME HERE FOR A SECOND.
HAHAHA, YOU'RE RIGHT
IT'S HARD WORK, BUT IT'S FUN. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT FLOWERS HAD SO MANY DIFFERENT VARIETIES.
I'M GLAD YOU ENJOYING YOURSELF.
YOU MUST BE SURPRISED THAT WORKING IN A FLORIST STORE REQUIRES SO MUCH ENERGY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK? ARE YOU GETTING USED TO IT?
AH, NII-CHAN! YOU'RE HOME ALREADY.
AYANA, WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FLOWER?
YES, AND SOMETIMES I FORGET THAT I'M BUYING THEM TO SELL.
I JUST TRY TO COLLECT AS MANY FLOWERS AS POSSIBLE.
SIR, YOU REALLY LOVE FLOWERS, DON'T YOU?
Why is that funny?
HAHAHAHA
THAT'S WHY MY WIFE LEFT ME. SHE THOUGHT THAT I LOVED FLOWERS MORE THAN I LOVED HER.

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MY FAVORITE FLOWER, HUH?
HMM...
I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW THE NAME OF IT,
BUT IT'S REALLY PRETTY.
IT'S A WHITE FLOWER THAT GROWS IN WINTER.
IT'S REALLY SMALL, IT LOOKS LIKE A DROP OF SNOW.
SNOW DROP.
WELCOME HOME, SHIN.
THE NAME OF THE FLOWER...
IS SNOW DROP.
SNOW...
DROP?

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There're a lot of prettier flowers in this room, right?
HM, I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE SUCH A SIMPLE FLOWER.
I'LL CHANGE FIRST, AND HELP YOU, FATHER.
COULD IT BE THAT...
MIZUKI-SENPAI STILL REMEMBERS THAT INCI-DENT?
THE DAY WHEN WE FIRST MET...
...
IN THAT CASE,
I'LL EXCUSE MYSELF FOR TODAY.
THANK YOU SO MUCH, AYANA.
SHIN WILL WALK YOU HOME.
...

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I SEE.
NO PROBLEM. IT'S ON MY WAY TO THE ART CLASS, ANYWAY.
SORRY, YOU HAD TO WALK ME HOME...
I'M USED TO HIS SCARY FACE BY NOW, BUT,
WALKING TOGETHER WITH HIM MAKES ME NERVOUS.
BECAUSE HE'S SO COLD...
BUT CHIKA AND I BOTH THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD GIVE UP AND QUIT STRAIGHT AWAY.
I could do with more praise, considering how low my wages are.
HE SAID THAT YOU WORKED REALLY HARD.
IS THAT SO?
FATHER .. JUST PRAISED YOU.
EH?

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NO WAY!
I'D NEVER DO THAT!
SHE'S SO MEAN! SHE'S COMPLETELY LIKE HER BROTHER!
PLEASE TELL CHIKA ABOUT THIS TOO!
YOU SURE ARE WEIRD.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THAT PAINTING ANYMORE, DIDN'T I?
THAT WAS YOUR REASON TO HELP US OUT IN THE STORE, RIGHT?
UUUH!
EH?
SERIOUSLY!?
BESIDES,
MY SNOW DROP PAINTING HAS BEEN COMPLETELY FIXED.
I'LL SHOW IT IN THE NEXT EXHIBITION OF THE MUSEUM OF ART.
BECAUSE THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE AS THE 12TH GRADER.
IT WOULD BE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW MY WORK.

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ON THAT SNOWY DAY, I SAW YOU CLIMBING THE SCHOOL FENCE.
JUST FORGET IT.
WELL, I REMEMBER YOU FALLING OFF THE FENCE.
SO YOU STILL REMEMBER THAT!
BESIDES, I LIKE SNOW DROPS TOO.
UWAAA! THAT'S SO EMBARRASSING!

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HE LOOKS SO DIFFERENT WHEN HE SMILES.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
AH, NOTHING. SORRY!
SHOCKED
YOU...
YOU'RE SMILING!
SO I DECIDED TO PAINT IT NO MATTER WHAT.
IS GOING TO BE CLEARED OUT FOR A NEW BUILDING
OUR SCHOOL'S BACK GARDEN...
VROOOM
I SEE.
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE OUT THERE PAINTING, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SNOWING HARD.

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KITAZAWA HIGH SCHOOL
12TH GRADE
SHIN MIZUKI

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I ALSO LOVE THIS PAINTING.
IT'S MY FAVOURITE PAINTING. IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL.
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL.
I CAN'T BELIEVE A 12TH GRADER PAINTED THIS.
I KNOW HIM
THE FLOWER THAT WAS AS WHITE AS THE SNOW, ON THAT DAY...
SO YOU CAME TO THE EXHIBITION TOO.
OF COURSE. I REALLY WANTED TO SEE IT ONCE AGAIN!
AYANA!
AH...
AH!

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I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ART, BUT,
I CAN TELL THAT MIZUKI-SENPAI'S PAINTING IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS.
WHEN I LOOK AT IT, MY HEART FEELS WARM.
THE POWER OF ART IS AMAZING.
HEY, MIZUKI-SAN. YOU'RE COMING TOO.
MITSUE -SAN.
NO COM-MENT.
WOW, THAT'S ONE HELL OF A COMPLI-MENT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, NII-CHAN?
I WAS SO WORRIED UNTIL RIGHT BEFORE YOUR PAINTING WAS HUNG UP ON THE WALL.
STOP IT.
BUT IT'S BEEN GETTING SUCH GOOD REVIEWS!
HAHA, LOOK AT YOU, GETTING ALL SHY.
THAT GIRL'S THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ART CLUB...
HUH, AREN'T YOU...?
HOW ARE YOU?

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HAVE YOU TAKEN A LOOK AT EVERYONE ELSE'S PAINTINGS?
NOPE, NOT YET.
THERE'RE A LOT OF GOOD ONES OVER THERE.
AYANA, YOU LIKE NII-CHAN, DON'T YOU?
CHI... CHIKA-CHAN, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
JEEZ!
I DON'T...
IT'S REALLY OBVIOUS, YOU KNOW.
BUT I SHOULD PROBABLY WARN YOU THAT NII-CHAN IS EXTREMELY POPULAR WITH THE LADIES.
BECAUSE HE'S BOTH TALENTED AND GOOD LOOKING
But Mitsue-san is just his friend, so that's fine.
....
AND UNFORTUNATELY, AYANA IS NEITHER TALENTED NOR GOOD LOOKING.
Cupu.

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I'M NOT GOING TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE WHEN YOUR HEART GETS BROKEN.
PLUS, I CAN'T LET YOU STOP WORKING AT THE STORE YET.
NOTHING.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHERE DID THEY GO?
YOU'RE SO SLOW
EH? MIZUKI TOO?
HEY, MITSUE-SAN, WAIT FOR ME!
WHERE'RE WE GOING?
JUST SHUT UP AND FOLLOW ME, WILL YOU?
CHI...
CHIKA-CHAN!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
LOOK!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. THIS HOUSE HAS BEEN EMPTY FOR YEARS.
ARE WE ALLOWED TO GO IN WITHOUT PERMISSION?
WHOSE HOUSE IS THIS?

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THE REASON IT'S BEAUTIFUL IS THAT SO MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF FLOWERS GROW HERE.
EVEN FATHER AND NII-CHAN DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE.
THIS PLACE IS SO PRETTY. AM I DREAMING? I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT IT'S REAL.
BUT, WHY ARE YOU TAKING ME HERE?
I'M NOT SURPRISED THAT CHIKA-CHAN WAS THE ONE WHO DISCOVERED THIS PLACE.
WHAT?
IF AYANA CAN REMEMBER THE NAMES OF ALL THE KINDS OF FLOWERS IN THIS GARDEN, I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND.
ESPECIALLY THAT SNOW DROP PANTING
I LOVE NII-CHAN'S PAINTINGS TOO.

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AYANA, DO YOU KNOW ..
WHAT THE MEANING OF THE SNOW DROP FLOWER IS?
NO, WHAT IS IT?
"HOPE".
I THINK THAT NII-CHAN IS A BIT LIKE A SNOW DROP,
BECAUSE HE'S DOING HIS BEST TO BLOOM, EVEN THOUGH THE WEATHER IS REALLY COLD.
CHIKA-CHAN...
SNOW DROPS CARRY ON GROW-ING EVEN ON THE COLDEST DAYS OF THE YEAR.
THEREFORE, THEIR MEANING IS "HOPE", BE-CAUSE THEY TEACH US NOT TO GIVE UP OUR HOPE UNTIL THE SPRING COMES.
THREE YEARS AGO, WHEN MOTHER LEFT US,
NII-CHAN HAS ALWAYS ...
DONE HIS BEST TO HELP FATHER.

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NII-CHAN DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING THAT DAY.

BUT HE WOULDN'T LEAVE ME ALONE EITHER.

MOTHER LEFT US,

ON A SNOWY DAY.

AT THAT TIME, OUR STORE WAS NOT VERY WELL KNOWN, SO NOBODY COULD HELP US WATCH THE STORE.

SHE LEFT US ON THE COLDEST DAY OF WINTER.

HE WAS SO WARM...

DOKI

I... I'M REALLY GRATEFUL FOR NII-CHAN'S KINDNESS.

HE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.

HE DOES EVERYTHING HE CAN TO BE INDEPENDENT AND KEEPS HIS PROBLEMS TO HIMSELF.

SOMETIMES, I FEEL LIKE HE'S PUSHING HIMSELF TOO HARD.

PLUS, HE'S GOING TO HAVE EXAMS SOON.

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AYANA HAS HELPED HIM A LOT JUST BY TAKING HIS PLACE IN THE STORE.
HONESTLY,
PLEASE DO YOUR BEST AND LET'S HELP NII-CHAN TOGETHER.
DEAL?
YAAAY!
SURE.
THAT'S FINE BY ME.
MY HEART WAS BEATING FAST WHEN I HEARD CHIKA-CHAN'S STORY
AND IT REMINDED ME OF THAT DAY...

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Snow Drop

By. Akimoto Nami

Doko Demo Doa

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RAW Provider
Translator
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